

<p style="text-align: center;">Sustainability Commission Built Environment Working Group Meeting Report</p>

Date: Monday, June 16, 2008 6pm, Enoch Pratt Waverly Library

Subject: Built Environment Working Group Listening Session

In Attendance: Alan Cohen, Kion Latham, Bronwyn Phillips, Julie Gabrielli, Ruth Ann Norton, Gary Suskauer, Jake Ruppert, Sarah Zaleski, Kara Hubbard, Alice Watson, Phillip Scott, Demetria Barrett, Jeff Carroll, Bunky Markert, Kate Markert, John Cutonilli, Brett Buikema, Ryan Schwabenbauer, Phil Scott, Pearnell Wilson, Madeleine Shea, Steve Allen, Joe Maheady

Discussion: The meeting began with a visioning exercise in which all attendees identified which phrases resonated most highly with them from a list provided. The top three phrases identified in each category column were:

- Values: legacy for future, environmental stewardship, economic opportunity
- Strategies: resource conservation, strengthen neighborhoods, eliminate waste
- Tactics: energy efficiency, clean-green-safe schools, car-free zones

A draft vision statement was presented – “Baltimore has a built environment that integrates and benefits people, communities, and natural systems.” Then the meeting opened up to a brainstorming session on vision, low-hanging fruit, and outstanding questions.

Topics addressed:

- Ideas for what a Sustainable Baltimore would look like:
 - healthier indoor environments
 - helps cultivate a sense of pride
 - has community involvement
 - inspires a culture/lifestyle change that respects environmental and human health
 - operates in harmony with natural forces
 - has a built environment that endures
 - triple bottom line thinking
 - Importance of attractive, healthy, learning environments
 - more people living near where they work
- Ideas for low-hanging fruit that we can tackle:
 - less abandon properties – find a way to recycle these
 - less chemicals/toxics both indoors and outdoors
 - establishment of a land bank to facilitate redevelopment
 - integration with Project 5000
 - leveraging sustainability to attract BRAC
 - closer examination of what we bring into our homes and schools
 - address pre-WWII housing design challenges and opportunities
 - Expedited permitting for green building
 - Adopt “sustainable-zoning” lessons from LEED
 - Sarbanes energy efficiency proposals
 - more environmental education in our schools
- Outstanding questions:
 - What is the composition of Baltimore’s building stock? Number? Square footage?
 - How to finance/pay for these “greening” efforts?
 - How to convey the importance of these issues in a way that is relevant to people?
 - How do we reach the people others aren’t yet reaching with their message

Upcoming Events:

Next BE WG Listening Session: Tuesday, July 17, Department of Planning, 417 E. Fayette St., 8th Floor, 21202